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Environment and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

2. It is envisaged that during the biennium 2004-2005, the following meetings will be held:

(a) Subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, twentieth session;

(b) Conference of the Parties to the Convention, tenth session, and its subsidiary bodies, twenty-first session;

(c) Subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, twenty-second session;

(d) Conference of the Parties to the Convention, eleventh session, and its subsidiary bodies, twenty-third session.

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3. The conference servicing of the Convention bodies in the biennium 2004-2005 from within the United Nations regular budget resources would require an amount of $3.1 million on a full-cost basis at current rates.

4. In addition to the provisions for the full cost of conference servicing requirements mentioned above the expenses for the travel of conference-servicing staff from Geneva to Bonn are estimated at $681,100. Thus, total additional costs under the United Nations regular budget for servicing the meetings are estimated at $3,781,100.

5. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned are implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities must be deferred to a later biennium.

6. Additional provisions would be required over and above the resources initially proposed for 2004-2005 ($3,781,100). It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within sections 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and 29 D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during that biennium to meet the additional requirement of $3,781,100.